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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 00254 262122Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 /054 W
----------035958 272021Z /43
R 260952Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3916
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LENINGRAD 00254

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, CSCC, UR
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF IVANGOROD RELIGIOUS SAMIZDAT GROUP

REF: 77 STATE 291958

1. ZNANIE LECTURER ON CONTEMPORARY SECTS AND THEIR IDEOLOGY ON JANUARY 23 CONFIRMEDTHAT THERE WAS INDEED A TRIAL OF A RELIGIOUS GROUP IN IVANGOROD IN LENINGRAD REGION ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO. THE TRIAL WHICH TOOK PLACE INKINGISSEP INVOLVED FOUR PEOPLE ACCUSED OF AN UNLAWFUL INTENT TO PUBLISH UNDERGROUND RELIGIOUS MATERIALS.ONE OF THE FOUR WAS IDENTIFIED AS A CERTAIN KOOP (FNU) (PRESUMABLY DAVID KOOP PER REFTEL) SAID TO BE OF GERMAN EXTRACTION WHO WAS BORN IN 1928. THE OTHERS WERE UNIDENTIFIED YOUNG PERSONS.

2. THE GROUP, WHICH WAS REPORTED TOHAVE ON HAND A QUANTITY OF MONEY APPARENTLY COLLECTED FROM BELIEVERS, REPORTEDLY HAD ATTEMPTED TO SET UP A PRESS AND INTENDED TO PUBLISH A JOURNAL OF ANTI-SOVIET CHARACTER AND TO REPRODUCE OVERSEAS LITERATURE. ONE OF THE GROUP'S PURPOSES WAS APPARENTLY TO PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR UNDERGROUND RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN, THE FOUR PERSONS WERE CONVICTED UNDER FOUR DIFFERENT ARTICLES, THE ARTICLES WERE 104, CONFIDENTIAL

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145, 127, 191 FOR THEIR ILLEGAL INTENTION TO PUBLISH FORBIDDEN MATERIAL AND FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF UNDERGROUND SUNDAY SCHOOL AND APPARENTLY FOR ANTI-SOVIET AGITATION. THEY WERE SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS AND SIX MONTHS.

3. IN LIGHT OF LECTURER'S ORTHODOX COMMUNIST VIEW ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, IT IS INTERESTING THAT SHE REMARKED

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THAT THEY WERE APPARENTLY GOOD FELLOWS AND BEHAVED THEM-
SELVES WELL AT THE TRIAL BUT THAT "CRIME IS CRIME."

4. CONGRESSMAN DRINAN INTERESTED. BUCHANAN

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LENING00254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0553
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 291958
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3711035
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIAL OF IVANGOROD RELIGIOUS SAMIZDAT GROUP
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, CASC, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/884309e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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